

REMARKS

In complete response to the outstanding Official Action of June 15, 2006, on the above identified application, reconsideration is respectfully requested. Claims 7-9, and 16-18 remain in this application. Claims 1-6, and 10-15 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that Claims 7-9 and 16-18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. These claims have been amended accordingly.

Claim Objections:

Applicant acknowledges the Examiner's recommended alteration to claim 11. As claim 11 has been cancelled, these recommendations have been rendered moot.

Double Patenting Rejections:

Applicant acknowledges the Examiner's rejection of claim 1 on the grounds of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting. As claim 1 has been cancelled, this rejection has been rendered moot.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-6 and 10-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Al-Chalab '677. Claims 1-6 and 10-15 have been cancelled, thereby rendering these rejections moot.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 2-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Seiver, et al. '521. Claims 2-5 have been cancelled, thereby rendering these rejections moot.

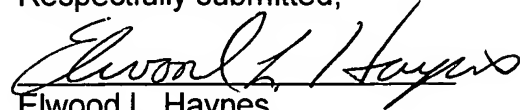
Application No. 10/776,346
Amendment dated September 13, 2006
Reply to Office Action of June 15, 2006

Claims 2-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Howard, et al. Claims 2-5 have been cancelled, thereby rendering these rejections moot.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, it is believed that the present application now stands in condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. Should the examiner believe a telephone call would expedite the prosecution of the application, he is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 13th day of September, 2006.


Stacy Forte